

skier Barbara Ann Cochran, slalom gold medalist in 1972.

The Cochran family is somewhat of an Olympic dynasty in its own right. Barbara Ann's sister Marilyn and brother Bob also competed in 1972 and her sister Lindy in 1976. Bob's son Jim raced in Saturday's slalom at his second Olympics. A member of the family is a member of my own staff and I cherish having him here.

There were 11 athletes in Vancouver this year who were born in Vermont or call Vermont home. Ten others attended high school or college in Vermont, we are going to take credit for them as well, and we are proud to do that.

Raised in Vermont are snowboarders Kelly Clark from West Dover, Lindsey Jacobellis from Stratton, Hannah Teter from Belmont and Ross Powers from Londonderry; alpine skiers Jimmy Cochran from Richmond, Nolan Kasper from Warren, and Chelsea Marshall from Pittsfield; nordic skiers Andy Newell from Shaftsbury, Liz Stephen from East Montpelier, Caitlin Compton from Warren; and freestyle skier Hannah Kearney from Norwich.

Vermont's colleges and universities, with a strong tradition of winter sports, have sent athletes, both in-state and out-of-state, to numerous games. Jim Cochran is a UVM alum, along with biathlete Lowell Bailey, nordic skier Kris Freeman and hockey goalie Tim Thomas. Nordic skiers Simi Hamilton and Garrett Kuzzy are Middlebury College graduates.

Vermont's ski academies, private high schools that are dedicated to winter sports training, attract hundreds of kids from out of State every year, and have produced hundreds of Olympians. Liz Stephen and Nolan Kasper skied at Vancouver and are graduates of Burke Mountain Academy, which was the first ski academy in the country, founded in 1970. Other ski academy graduates competing in Vancouver are snowboarder Louie Vito who attended Stratton Mountain School along with Andy Newell and Ross Powers; freestyle skier Michael Morse of the Killington Mountain School; and biathlete Laura Spector and skiercross racers Paul Casey Puckett and Daron Rahlves who attended the Green Mountain Valley School along with Chelsea Marshall. Jim Cochran represented the Mount Mansfield Winter Academy, and Kelly Clark the Mount Snow Academy.

Of course, all of Vermont wants to give a special hearty congratulations to those whose efforts resulted in medals—Hannah Kearney won gold in the mogul competition.

I spoke with her the morning after. I told her I had seen her great smile on television that morning. She said I think it is going to take forever to get that smile off my face. The New York Times had a wonderful article showing Marty Candon driving her in a parade in Norwich this past weekend.

Hannah Teter and Kelly Clark won silver and bronze in the snowboard

halfpipe. Our entire State is proud of your accomplishments on this international stage.

But I am proud of every Vermonter who was chosen for the Team. No matter what their results were, it has been a pleasure to watch them, and I know that each minute of competition we saw on television was preceded by hard work, sacrifice, dedication, and thousands of hours of training.

They have been great ambassadors for the United States, and fantastic role models to Vermont's kids. I say congratulations to all of them.

Finally, I want to take a moment to recognize two Vermonters who missed competing in Vancouver because of serious head injuries. Snowboarder Kevin Pearce of Norwich fell while training in Park City, UT, on December 31, and Cody Marshall, Chelsea's brother, of Pittsfield, an alpine slalom racer, was injured last summer. Both have come a long way since their injuries but have difficult recoveries ahead of them. I spoke with Kevin Pearce's mother Pia, and I know how the whole family has come together for him, just as Cody Marshall's family has come together for him. So I wish them and their families well, and I wanted them to know they are special inspirations to all of us. They are in all of our prayers and thoughts.

Vermont is a very small State—second smallest in the country—so it is almost like one big community in our sense of pride for these young people.

I see my distinguished colleague from Vermont on the floor. I yield to him.

Mr. SANDERS. I thank Senator LEAHY for yielding. There is not a lot more I can add to what he has already said.

As you well know, Vermont is a small State. We have 620,000 people—one of the smallest States in the country. But a lot of our young people grow up on the slopes of Vermont. They are involved in skiing and snowboarding from a very young age. My grandson is out there. He is 5. He is doing pretty well as a snowboarder. That is true all over the State.

I think people who have watched the extraordinary Olympics in Vancouver noted that a lot of the participants, a lot of the outstanding athletes came from the State of Vermont. The world watched as Hannah Kearney of Norwich won the first gold medal for the United States. She was closely followed in the women's snowboarding halfpipe when Vermont took both second and third place on the podium. That is quite a feat for a small State. Kelly Clark of West Dover brought home the bronze, and Hannah Teter of Belmont, the silver medal. This is an incredible feat when you consider that there were a total of just eight women on the U.S. snowboarding team; three of them were from the Green Mountain State and two of them were in the top three. That is pretty good under anybody's definition of success.

In true Vermont fashion, our Olympians bring more than talent, excellence, and commitment to their sports. They showed exemplary dedication to their communities. In other words, these men and women are more than just athletes; they are people who are concerned about the world in which they are living and the communities in which they live. When Hannah Teter took gold in the Torino games in 2006, she combined her prize money with proceeds from maple syrup sales to start a charity called "Hannah's Gold" which brings aid to a village in Kenya. That is what Hannah Teter did. Liz Stephen, a cross-country skier from East Montpelier, supports "Fast and Female," a charity geared toward getting young girls involved in sports. Lindsey Jacobellis, a snowboarder from Stratton, VT, used her love of animals as motivation to get involved with the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. From charity efforts to hometown, family-owned restaurants, the impact of these outstanding individuals is felt by many.

The 11 athletes who are recognized today as Vermont Olympians are the following: in cross-country skiing, Caitlin Compton, Andy Newell; in alpine skiing, Chelsea Marshall, Nolan Kasper, and Jimmy Cochran; in ski jumping, Nick Alexander; in freestyle skiing, gold medalist Hannah Kearney; and in snowboarding, silver medalist Hannah Teter, bronze medalist Kelly Clark, and Lindsey Jacobellis. It is with great pleasure that I congratulate these athletes on a spectacular job. The State of Vermont is very proud of you all.

TRIBUTE TO REVEREND JESSE SCOTT

Mr. REID. Madam President, I rise to acknowledge a respected voice and longstanding figure in the Las Vegas community; I rise to commend a leader of souls and a social advocate for civil rights and children for over 50 years; I rise to wish a happy 90th birthday to a man whom I and many in Las Vegas call their friend. I rise to honor Rev. Jesse Scott.

On March 3, 1920, Jesse Scott came into a world that is far different than what we see today. When I think of the challenges he and so many others have endured over the years, I am humbled by his strength, perseverance, and faith in God.

As a graduate of Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA, Reverend Scott has devoted his life to social justice. He was an organizer and president of the NAACP's Westside Branch in Los Angeles and later supervised the work of some thirty NAACP branches in southern California.

Eventually he came to Nevada, where he served as the executive director of the Las Vegas NAACP. Reverend Scott was on the front lines in efforts to move the city of Las Vegas through very challenging times. In fact he was

part of a major effort to integrate the hospitality and entertainment industry. Later, Reverend Scott was selected to serve as executive director of the Nevada Equal Rights Commission and authored an autobiography, "Pioneer for Social Justice."

Today, Reverend Scott is the assistant pastor at Second Baptist Church of Las Vegas and is the former pastor of Second Christian Church in Las Vegas. He is still carrying out his life's mission of social advocacy by working with Nevada's nonviolent ex-offenders to provide job training and employment. He also promotes education for children and is aligned with initiatives that help students graduate from high school and provide scholarships to college-bound young men and women.

Madam President, I ask the Senate to join me in paying tribute to Reverend Jesse Scott for his lifetime of service to Nevada and our Nation.

NOMINATION OF BARBARA KEENAN

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today the Senate confirmed Justice Barbara Keenan to be a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit by a vote of 99-0. But the vote took place only after an unsuccessful Republican filibuster of her nomination.

This is just the latest example of the new low to which Republicans have sunk when it comes to the treatment of judicial nominations.

When the Democrats were in the minority under President Bush, we voted against cloture on a handful of his judicial nominees, but only the most controversial and only those for appellate court positions.

Under President Obama, Senate Republicans have filibustered and stalled almost every judicial nominee sent forward, regardless of the court and regardless of the controversy.

Take the case of Virginia State Supreme Court Justice Barbara Keenan. You would be hard pressed to come up with someone less controversial for this Fourth Circuit vacancy.

Justice Keenan had the strong support of her home State Senators, JIM WEBB and MARK WARNER. She sailed through the Senate Judiciary Committee without a single vote of opposition. She received the highest possible rating from the American Bar Association. And she will be the first woman from Virginia to sit on the Fourth Circuit.

Yet here we are—over 4 months after Justice Keenan was reported unanimously out of the Judiciary Committee—and the Republicans refused to agree to have an up-or-down vote on the Keenan nominee and forced the Democratic majority to waste time filing and voting on a cloture motion. They have used similar tactics with other judicial nominees.

Why are the Republicans making us jump through all these procedural hoops?

It is simple: the Republicans are trying to make us burn precious Senate floor time so we are unable able to work on pressing legislative business for the American people like job creation.

Justice Keenan had to wait 124 days between her Senate Judiciary Committee vote and her floor vote. Some other circuit court nominees of President Obama had to wait even longer than that. Fourth Circuit Judge Andre Davis was forced to wait 158 days—over five months—between his committee vote and his floor vote. Seventh Circuit Judge David Hamilton was forced to wait 168 days.

How does this compare with the treatment of President Bush's circuit court nominees?

Under President Bush, 61 judges were confirmed to the appellate courts. Their average wait time from committee vote to floor vote was a mere 29 days, according to statistics from the Congressional Research Service.

Justice Keenan was forced to wait over four times longer than the average Bush circuit court nominee who was confirmed.

This is part of a larger pattern of obstruction on judicial nominations. During President Obama's first year in office, due to Republican filibusters and holds, the Senate confirmed only 12 lower court judges. Only 12.

You have to go back to President Eisenhower to find a President who had so few judicial confirmations. President Eisenhower only had nine judicial confirmations during his first year in office. But President Eisenhower only made nine judicial nominations that year.

Every other President in the modern era had more judicial confirmations than President Obama during their first year in office.

President George W. Bush had 28, and that was with a Democratic Senate majority. President Clinton had 27, President George H.W. Bush had 15, President Reagan had 41, President Carter had 31, President Ford had 22, President Nixon had 25, President Johnson had 18, and President Kennedy had 56. But President Obama had only 12, due to unprecedented Republican obstruction.

Today is March 2. By this time in his Presidency, President George W. Bush had 39 judicial confirmations. And, it bears repeating, that was with a Democratic Senate majority. By contrast, President Obama has only 16 judicial confirmations, less than half as many as his predecessor.

There are 15 judicial nominations pending on the Senate floor. Most of them were approved in committee without a single vote of opposition. Yet, due to anonymous Republican holds, many have been waiting months and months for a vote.

This Republican obstructionism is unacceptable and it must be exposed.

WHEN DEFICITS BECOME DANGEROUS

Mr. KYL. Madam President, I recommend to my colleagues a February 11 Wall Street Journal column by Stanford economist Michael Boskin, entitled, "When Deficits Become Dangerous."

Boskin's premise is that the new taxes and "enormous deficits and endless accumulation of debt" in President Obama's budget will create a ripple effect of problems through our economy.

He explains that the debt will eventually force additional growth-smothering taxes: "Such vast debt implies immense future tax increases. . . . It's hard to imagine a worse detriment to economic growth."

Boskin also notes that "so worrisome is this debt outlook that Moody's warns of a downgrade on U.S. Treasury bonds, and major global finance powers talk of ending the dollar's reign as the global reserve currency." He describes President Obama's budget as "the most risky fiscal strategy in history."

I ask unanimous consent that this article be printed in the RECORD, and urge my colleagues to consider the facts and arguments it contains.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

WHEN DEFICITS BECOME DANGEROUS—DEBT-TO-GDP RATIOS OVER 90 PERCENT HAVE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE PACE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH

(By Michael J. Boskin, Feb. 11, 2010)

President Barack Obama's 2011 budget lays out a stunningly expensive big-government spending agenda, mostly to be paid for years down the road. He proposes to increase capital gains, dividend, payroll, income and energy taxes. But the enormous deficits and endless accumulation of debt will eventually force growth-inhibiting income tax hikes, a national value-added tax similar to those in Europe, or severe inflation.

On average, in the first three years of the 10-year budget plan, federal spending rises by 4.4 percent of GDP. That's more than during President Lyndon Johnson's Great Society and Vietnam War buildup and President Ronald Reagan's defense buildup combined. In those same three years, spending on average hits the highest level in American history (25.1 percent of GDP), save the peak of World War II. The average deficit of \$1.4 trillion (9.6 percent of GDP) is over three times the previous 2008 record.

Remarkably, President Obama will add more red ink in his first two years than President George W. Bush—berated by conservatives for his failure to control domestic spending and by liberals for the explosion of military spending in Iraq and Afghanistan—did in eight. In his first 15 months, Mr. Obama will raise the debt burden—the ratio of the national debt to GDP—by more than Reagan did in eight years.

Some specific proposals are laudable: permanently indexing the Alternative Minimum Tax for inflation, part of the increased R&D funding, reform of agriculture subsidies, a future freeze on one-sixth of the budget (only after it balloons for two years). But these are swamped by the huge expansion and centralization of government.

True, as he often reminds us, President Obama inherited a recession and fiscal mess. Much of the deficit is the natural and desirable result of the deep recession.